

# **News from Assemblymember** ***Joe Coto***

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**March 23, 2009**

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## **State Assembly Approves Bill to Provide Additional Support for Unemployed**

Sacramento - In a bipartisan vote of 75-0, the State Assembly passed **AB 23 X3**, authored by Assemblymember Joe Coto (D-San Jose), which adopts the necessary changes to California law to qualify the state for up to \$3 billion in federal economic stimulus funding.

The bill authorizes 20 weeks of additional federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for persons who have exhausted their UI benefits. These extended benefits are paid entirely from federal funds. The bill has been sent to the State Senate for review and approval.

Assemblymember Coto said, "Today, I am pleased to report that the State Assembly has approved state legislation to help 469,000 people who need unemployment compensation to meet living expenses." He also noted, "At a time when 2 million people are unemployed in our state and we are experiencing a 10.5% unemployment rate, it is vital that we obtain federal dollars to help unemployed families and communities throughout our state. AB 23 X3 will bring a vital **\$3 billion** to California in unemployment benefits."

In February 2009, there were 1,950,000 people unemployed in California and the unemployment rate was 10.5%. In February 2009, 768,762 people received regular unemployment compensation in California. Another 259,903 people were certified to receive the federal emergency unemployment benefits in the state in the latest reporting period. The Employment Development Department estimates that next month (April 2009), 97,048 people will exhaust their unemployment compensation benefits in California and will become eligible for federal extended benefits if this state law (AB 23 X3) is enacted. Subsequently, another 50,000 individuals each month will exhaust their unemployment benefits without this state legislation.

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